



Voting Information News

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Voting Assistance Officers

“To Do” This Month:

☑ Announce upcoming primary elections. Post your 2006 Election Dates Calendar. Ensure your contact information is included so that voters may contact you for assistance.

☑ Start planning and coordinating your voter outreach activities for the upcoming events: Overseas Citizens Voters Week, Armed Forces Voters Week, and Absentee Voting Week. Read article “General Election is Nearing” in this issue of the *VIN*.

☑ Ensure that you are on the distribution list for the FVAP News Releases and this Newsletter. *VIN* is available by e-mail, regular mail, or both! News Releases are available only by e-mail. Contact our office (see page 4) to be added to the distribution list.

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A roundup of voting news from the Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) for voters, potential voters and those who assist voters.

Where Are You Going to be for This Year's Election?

Local election officials need to know the citizens' current address in order to send the absentee ballot. Although it is the citizens' responsibility to notify their local election official of changes in their mailing address (where the citizen needs their ballot mailed) it is often forgotten. Because Uniformed Service members are highly mobile, FVAP recommends that the Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) be completed in its entirety and submitted every year in January and whenever they move or are transferred. Voting Assistance Officers (VAOs) can help by announcing the following procedures.

Send a change of address notification by submitting an FPCA. When completing the FPCA indicate your “NEW ADDRESS” and your “OLD ADDRESS”. Completion instructions for each state can be found in Chapter 3 of the *2006-07 Voting Assistance Guide*. State-by State Instructions are also available online at www.fvap.gov.

In addition to informing the local election official of the citizen's current mailing address, submitting the FPCA

will register or confirm the citizen's registration, and acts as a request for absentee ballots for any elections to be held that year.

A second option to indicate a change in address is writing a letter to your local election official with your name, date of birth, and both new and old addresses. The new address is where you would like to receive your ballot.

When using any of the options provided, it is important to include a voter registration number or Social Security Number and any further information that can help the local election official properly identify you.

Submit an address change early enough so that you have enough time to receive, vote your ballot, and return it to the local election official to meet state deadlines.

If you return to your state of legal voting residence, or separate from military service, be sure to notify your local election official that you plan on voting at the polls in the next election.

Celebrate Independence – Register and Request Your Ballot!

The Secretary of Defense has designated July 2 to July 8, 2006 as Overseas Citizens Voters Week. See “General Election is Nearing – Use the Plan” article in this month's issue of the *VIN*.

Share your good ideas! Send your good ideas and lessons learned to your Department of State or Service Voting Action Officer.
(Contact information on page 3)

"To Do" This Month

(continued):

☑ Ensure that citizens you assist have submitted new FPCAs to their local election officials if they have recently changed their mailing address.

☑ Make sure your organization's budget provides funding for voting materials such as FPCAs and FWABs. Ensure that you have adequate supplies of these items on-hand and order additional stock, if necessary. The March 2006 issue of the VIN provides procedures for ordering voting materials. Contact your Service Voting Action Officer for assistance in ordering.

☑ Plan to attend a FVAP workshop to ensure you are properly trained to provide assistance to your citizens. Contact your Embassy, Consulate or Major Command VAO to request workshops scheduled in your area.

NOTE: The appearance of external hyperlinks does not constitute endorsement by the United States Federal Government, United States Department of Defense or the Federal Voting Assistance Program of the linked web sites, or the information, products or services contained therein. The Federal Voting Assistance Program does not exercise any editorial control over the information you may find at these locations.

General Election is Nearing – Use The Plan

On November 7, 2006, we will be electing 33 U.S. Senators, the entire House of Representatives and 37 state Governors. There will also be thousands of other state and local office elections. Election laws differ from state to state, but most state election laws require the absentee ballot requests to be received at least 30 days before the general election. With Election Day so close there is not much time left.

The purpose of *The Voting Action Plan* is to implement the Federal functions of the *Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA)* and administer the provisions of the Department of Defense (DoD) Directive 1000.4. The *2006-07 Voting Action Plan* was signed by the Deputy Secretary of Defense, Mr. Gordon England, and is available on our website, www.fvap.gov.

In addition, the *Plan* disseminates information and guidance, and coordinates tasks related to the Program. Basically, it is a plan of action issued by the Secretary of Defense that lays out a timeline for providing voting assistance.

The Plan is divided into four phases with the overall objective of being to ensure that all citizens covered under *UOCAVA* are provided the necessary support to participate in the Democratic process.

We are now in Phase II of this plan; one of the most critical times for VAOs and voters alike. Included in Phase II is the designation and celebration of two voter outreach campaigns: "Overseas Citizens Voters Week" and "Armed Forces Voters Week".

Overseas Citizens Voters Week, July 2 to July 8, 2006: Now is the time for VAOs in installations overseas and stateside to plan for voter outreach activities to be held during celebration of our nation's Independence. VAOs also announce the several states that will be holding primary elections in the following months. To find out what are

the next state primary dates see the Election Dates Calendar on the FVAP website at www.fvap.gov. VAOs, do not wait to the last minute! Plan ahead. July 4 is only 126 days from the General Election.

Armed Forces Voters Week, September 3 - 9, 2006: During this week VAOs announce through various media that voters who have not completed the Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) should do so immediately in order to allow sufficient time for registering, requesting and receiving the blank ballot, and returning the voted ballot in time to be counted for the General election. VAOs also hold voter outreach activities during Armed Forces Voters Week,

In addition, this year, the Secretary of Defense has designated the week of October 8 to October 14, 2006 as Absentee Voting Week.

During this time VAOs are asked to announce through various medium of communication that voters should return their voted ballot immediately upon receiving it. Help dispel the myth that overseas absentee votes do not count! All properly executed ballots are counted.

If by this time overseas voters have not received their regular state ballot they should use the Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB) (depending on local postal transit times). Refer to Page 21 of the *2006-07 Voting Assistance Guide* for requirements on completing the FWAB (also available on the FVAP website).

The objective of these campaigns is to promote voter outreach efforts worldwide. These events should help ensure that all citizens have been given a fair chance at receiving information on how to obtain an absentee ballot and return their voted ballot on time to meet the state deadlines.

(continued on next page)

Use The Plan (continued)

Events held during these weeks should create excitement about voting. Examples of outreach efforts include disseminating voter information and registration forms, conducting voter registration drives and training workshops, and providing general assistance to citizens. Local publicity campaigns, ranging from newspaper articles and posters to television and radio coverage, can inform voters when and where these events occur.

Events should emphasize the importance of registering and requesting an absentee ballot in sufficient time to allow citizens to receive, vote and return the voted ballot in time to meet state election deadlines.

VAOs should note that they cannot advise voters on specific candidates or issues and that all activities should be conducted on a nonpartisan basis. However VAOs may refer these citizens to other information sources such as local, regional and national newspapers, information pamphlets from political parties, the DoD Voting Information Center, and the FVAP website www.fvap.gov (select State Election Sites).

The New Millennium Young Voters Project website at <http://www.stateofthevote.org/>, hosted by the National Association of Secretaries of State, is another source for obtaining non-partisan information on candidates.

The FVAP **Get Out the Vote Campaign** will launch soon. This campaign is designed to educate young adults about the ease and importance of voting in the 2006 and future elections. The campaign website will provide information on the democratic process and links to candidate information. Information about the campaign will be available in the VIN and at fvap.gov once the campaign begins.

These information outlets are excellent resources when planning voter registration drives and other voter outreach efforts to help encourage participation.

Please feel free to contact the FVAP if you have additional questions, or need help obtaining materials or coordinating an event. (FVAP contact information located on last page). ☑



Voting Action Officers

Department of State: Office of Overseas Citizens Services

Chief VAO: Mr. Jack Markey, tel: (202) 736-4937, fax: (202) 647-6201, Email: votinginfo@state.gov

Service Voting Action Officers

U.S. Dept. of the Army: Mr. James Davis tel: (703) 325-4530 DSN: 221-4530; fax: (703) 325-4532
DSN fax: 221-4532, Email: davisj@hoffman.army.mil,
<https://www.hrc.army.mil/site/Active/TAGD/pssd/psb/votingindex.htm>

U.S. Dept. of the Navy: LT David Truman tel: 1-866-U-ASK-NPC (827-5672) (select option 6 from menu),
fax: (901) 874-6825, DSN fax: 882-6825,
Email: vote@navy.mil, <http://www.cni.navy.mil/NavyVote/Index.html>

U.S. Dept. of the Air Force: Mr. John Lowrance tel: (210) 565-5000, toll free: 1-800 616-3775 (Select options 1, then 1, then 2 from menu), DSN 665-5000; fax: (210) 565-2543, DSN fax: 665-2543;
Email: afpc/dpsfvotingpgmdlist@randolph.af.mil; <http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/votefund/>

U.S. Marine Corps: Mr. David E. James tel: (703) 784-9511, DSN: 278-9511; fax: (703) 784-9823,
DSN fax: 278-9823; Email: david.e.james@usmc.mil
https://www.manpower.usmc.mil/pls/portal/url/page/m_ra_home/MR/Personnel/Voting

U.S. Coast Guard: LTJG Dan Owen tel: (202)-267-1709, fax: (202) 267-4823;
Email: downen@comdt.uscg.mil,
http://www.uscg.mil/hq/g-w/g-wp/g-wpm/g-wpm-1/VotingAssistance/Voting_Assistance.htm

All of the above can also be reached through the DoD Voting Information Center and the FVAP Website.

Federal Voting Assistance Program

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1155 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC
20301-1155

PHONE:
(703) 588-1584
DSN 425-1584

FAX
(703) 696-1352
DSN 426-1352

VOTING INFORMATION
CENTER (VIC):
(703) 588-1343
DSN 425-1343

TOLL FREE (VIC and FVAP
staff member):
1-800-438-VOTE (8683)

Visit our website for
international toll-free phone
and fax numbers.

EMAIL:
vote@fvap.ncr.gov

Comments or suggestions on
this newsletter are welcome.

Website:
www.fvap.gov

Vote!

www.fvap.gov

The FVAP website, www.fvap.gov, is home to a variety of information that is updated regularly with answers to almost any voting related question available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. At times it may be difficult for VAOs to assist all unit members and eligible family members one-on-one in completing the FPCA. VAOs should encourage voters to visit the FVAP website where they can find their state instructions for completing the FPCA, link to their state Election Sites and much more. But first, VAOs should navigate the website and become familiar with the vast amount of information and tools available to help you in the performance of your duties. Log on today and you will find:

- Information on absentee voting, including a list of "Frequently Asked Questions".
- The *Voting Assistance Guide*, which provides procedures for registration and absentee ballot requests, and other "Publications" such as "News Releases", "Voting Information Newsletter" and archived issues of VIN
- Links to state election sites where the citizen can read about upcoming state elections and gain access to candidate information. It is another great way for them to stay informed with local issues. Select "State Election Sites".
- A link where citizens can find their county of legal voting residence using your town/city and state. Select "What is My County?"
- The online alternative version of the FPCA, which is accepted by all states including the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands (American Samoa and Guam do not accept the OFPCA). Citizens can print it, fill it out, and mail it to their local election official.
- A list of international toll free phone and fax numbers to contact the FVAP.
- Information on communicating with elected officials, including local, state, and federal offices, and tips for telephoning or writing their elected officials.
- Information for Armed Forces Recruitment Offices, including information on the *National Voter Registration Act (NVRA)* and voter registration information for military recruiters. Select "Military Recruiter Information".
- Links to the U.S. Senate, U.S. House of Representatives, National Governor's association, and many more.

Moving? Send an FPCA to notify your local election official. Also, send us an email so that you and your replacement can continue receiving this *newsletter*.

Federal Voting Assistance Program
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Washington, DC 20301-1155



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